and the amounts recovered till-date are given below:—

S.No	*Name of the Company*	*Amount recoverable*	*Amount recovered*
1	M/s. Hoechs (I) Ltd.	5,64,12,423	3 crores
2	M/s. Cyanamid (I) Ltd	4,92,00,247	50 lakhs
3	M/s. John Wyeth (I)	1,66,87,232	25 lakhs
4	M/s. Pfizor Ltd.	*99,07,731	10 lakhs
5	M/s. Geoffey Manners Ltd. . . .	29,85,260	
6	M/s. Ethnor Ltd.	10,18,543	7,99,134
7	M/s. France India Pharmaceuticals (P) Ltd.	..	42,936

*The amount has subsequently been revised to Rs. 48,21,148 by the special team.

Opening of FAX service centres

642. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to start FAX service centres for the use of public; if so, what are the details thereof;

(b) how many Indian cities are connected with FAX infrastructure at present and how many more are proposed to be covered by FAX Net Work in the next two years;

(c) whether Government are considering to enter National and International Courrier Service Business directly or through subsidiary Company and if so, what are the details thereof;

(d) how many private Courrier, services are operating in the country at present and how many of them are FERA/Multi-national Companies; and

(e) whether any licence or registration is necessary for running the courrier services; if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) and (b) Inland Analog FAX service is already provided since 1982 between Central Telegraph Offices at 15 important cities. Presently upgradation of this service is under way utillsing latest version of digital FAX Equipment.

(c) Ministry of Communications, Department of Posts, is not considering to enter into National and International courier service business directly or through subsidary Company. However, it has its own service called 'Speed Post Service' which is fast, reliable and guaranteed. Domestic Speed Post Service is available in 37 cities within the country and International Speed Post Service with 29 countries at present. However, it is true that Vayudoot, a Public Sector Company, under the Ministry of Civil Aviation, Government of India is running its own courier service. Further information is being collected from the Ministry of Civil Aviation and will be placed on the Table of the House.

(d) The information is being collected from the Ministry of Finance and the same will be laid on the Table of the House.

(e) No registration or licence is necessary for running courier service from the Department of Posts, Ministry of Communications.

Settling the cases of postal employees

643. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH THAKUR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the cases relating to the expunction of CR entries and promotion of 117 employees of the office of Postmaster General, Delhi Circle have not so far been decided due to the adamant attitude of a particular officer in spite of reminders from the working staff and the Director General's office instruction and Court directions in this regard;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor and by when a final decision is likely to be taken and implemented;

(c) whether Government propose to punish the officer responsible for the delay in settling the cases of the concerned employees; and

(d) if so, how and when?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) and (b) There are no Court directions in favour of 117 employees working in Delhi Circle. It is not correct that promotions have not been decided due to the adamant attitude of any particular officer.

Their cases for promotion is under review in accordance with Government Instructions on the Subject;

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Does not arise.

Compensation to the Bhopal gas tragedy victims

644. SHRI CHITTA BASU:
SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has since been drawn to the judgement of Madhya Pradesh High Court regarding the payment of interim compensation to the Bhopal gas tragedy victims;

(b) if so, what follow-up steps have since been taken in this regard; and

(c) how much amount and for what purpose has so far been spent for the rehabilitation and welfare of these victims and how much more is planned to be spent for the same?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Union Carbide Corporation has been directed to deposit a sum of Rs. 250 crores as interim compensation in the trial court within a period of two months time from the date of the order of the High Court (4th April, 1988). The Commisioner of Welfare of Victims appointed under the Bhopal Gas Leak Disaster (Processing of Claims) Act, 1985 is to complete the work of registration of claims in respect of death and personal injury cases within a period of four months from the date of deposit of the aforesaid amount. Steps have been initiated for completion of the work of scrutiny and categorisation expeditiously so that the amount can be disbursed promptly in accordance with the directions of the High Court.

(c) As reported by the Government of Madhya Pradesh, the expenditure it has incurred on various schemes of relief and rehabilitation